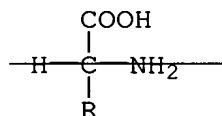


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition capable of exhibiting a detectable and measurable color transition in response to a concentration of 0% to about 20%, by weight, of a dialdehyde, said composition comprising:

(a) a diamino carboxylic acid in an amount of about 1% to about 25%, by weight of the composition, said diamino carboxylic acid having a formula:



~~wherein R is alkyl substituted with amino, amide, guanidine, or ureido, and further optionally substituted with hydroxy, is selected from the group consisting of lysine, ornithine, L-2,3-diaminopropionic acid, L-2,3-diaminobutyric acid, arginine, canavanine, hydroxylysine, asparagine, glutamine, and mixtures thereof;~~

- (b) a water-soluble polymer; and
- (c) a carrier comprising water.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid is lysine, ornithine, arginine, or a mixture thereof.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid is present in an amount of about 5% to about 15%, by weight of the composition.

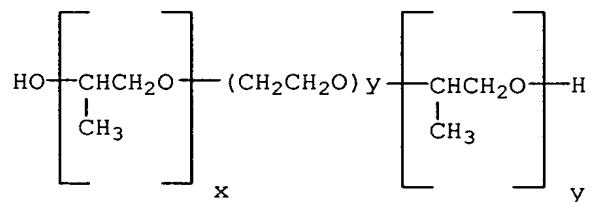
7. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer comprises a nonionic polymer.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 7 wherein the polymer comprises a cellulose-based polymer.

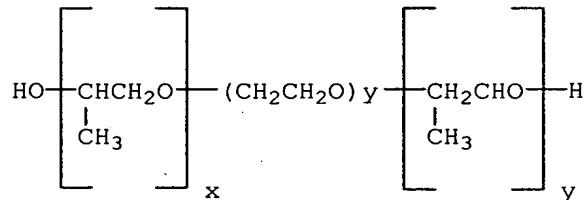
9. (Original) The composition of claim 8 wherein the cellulose-based polymer is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxyethylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose and salts thereof, hydroxybutylcellulose, cellulose acetate, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxybutylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 9 wherein the polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 7 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, hydrolyzed polyvinylpyrrolidone, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl acetate), vinyl acetate-vinyl alcohol copolymer, poly-(methacrylamide), a polyoxypropylene-polyoxyethylene block polymer having a structure:



or



wherein x and z , independently, are an integer from about 4 to about 30, and y is an integer from about 4 to about 100, polyacrylamide, a vinyl alcohol copolymer, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 7 wherein the polymer is present in an amount of 0.1% to about 5%, by weight of the composition.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 1 further comprising anionic surfactant.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 13 wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of an ethoxylated polysorbate, an ethoxylated alcohol, an ethoxylated phenol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene glycol, an ethylene glycol-propylene glycol copolymer, an alkyl sulfate, an alkyl ether sulfate, an alkyl ether sulfonate, a sulfate ester of an alkylphenoxy polyoxyethylene ethanol, an alpha-olefin sulfonate, a beta-alkyloxy alkane sulfonate, an alkyl arylsulfonate, an alkyl carbonate, an alkyl ether carboxylate, a fatty acid, a sulfosuccinate, an alkyl ether sulfosuccinate, a sarcosinate, an octoxynol phosphate, a nonoxynol phosphate, a taurate, a fatty tauride, a sulfated monoglyceride, a fatty acid amido polyoxyethylene sulfate, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 1 comprising:

(a) about 1% to about 25% by weight diamino carboxylic acid; and

(b) about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the carrier further comprises an organic solvent.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 16 wherein the organic solvent comprises methanol, ethanol, or acetone.

18-29. (Cancelled)